

Message Text

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02985 01 OF 01 071302Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 EUR-12 ARA-10 /111 W
-----044267 071335Z /50

R 071142Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8953
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2985

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, ET, US
SUBJ: ANTI-US MEDIA FLURRY IN ETHIOPIA

SUMMARY: JUNE 25 SPEECH BY PMAC SECRETARY GENERAL CAPT. FIKRE-SELASSIE WOGDERESS KICKED OFF MOST VIRULENT FLURRY OF ANTI-US AND ANTI-WESTERN PRESS AND RADIO COMMENTS OF PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. SITUATION RETURNED TO USUAL LEVEL OF CRITICISM BY JULY 3. WE BELIEVE PMGSE USED MEDIA BARRAGE TO DRAW USG ATTENTION TO CONTINUING ETHIOPIAN CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE US-SOMALI ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP AND ITS UNHAPPINESS BASED ON SOM EMBARRASSMENT, TO ITS DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET/CUBAN SUPPORT AND PRESENCE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE EPISODE INDICATES A WORSENING OF US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FIKRE SELASSIE CLAIMED THAT "IMPERIALISTS, ESPECIALLY THE AMERICAN, BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENTS, ARE PROVIDING THE ARMS SIAD BARRE NEEDS TO ENABLE HIM TO INVADE ETHIOPIA FOR THE SECOND TIME." HE ALSO CHARGED THAT "REGULAR FORCES OF SOMALIA, ARMED AND EQUIPPED BY IMPERIALIST POWERS SPEARHEADED BY THE US, BRITAIN AND WEST GERMANY, CONTINUE WREAKING HAVOC IN THE OGADEN PROVINCE."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 02985 01 OF 01 071302Z

2. LETTER IN JUNE 25 "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" SECTION OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED, ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "ETHIOPIAN HERALD" CLAIMED "THE USA NOT ONLY GAVE THE GREEN LIGHT TO THE SOMALI TYRANT TO INVADE ETHIOPIA, BUT ALSO ARMED HIM TO THE TEETH THROUGH ITS CLIENT STATES." (WE ASSUME MOST LETTERS PUBLISHED ARE PREPARED BY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, SOMETIMES WITH MOFA HELP, IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT GOALS.)

3. JUNE 30 "ETHIOPIAN HERALD" EDITORIAL BLAMED THIO-

PIA'S GROWING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ON THE WEST:

"IMPERIALIST PLOTS TO SABOTAGE THE ECONOMY WILL BE FOILED ... IMPERIALISM USED THIS SAME METHOD OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE TO FOIL THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION IN CHILE AND IS APPLYING IT TO ETHIOPIA TODAY."

4. ANTI-US PRESS CAMPAIGN PEAKED JULY 2. "ETHIOPIAN HERALD" CARRIED ON OF THE LARGEST SPREADS OF "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" TO DATE, MOST OF WHICH ATTACKED US. REFERRING TO A RECENT ANTI-US ARTICLE, ONE LETTER WRITER SAID "I WAS NEVER A GREAT ADMIRER OF THE AMERICANS, BUT AFTER READING THE ARTICLE I HATED THEM EVEN MORE. OUR PEOPLE MUST KNOW ALL THE CRIMES AMERICANS COMMITTED IN OUR COUNTRY." ANOTHER LETTER NOTED, "FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THE US GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO SOMALIA THROUGH IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DESTROYING OUR COUNTRY. NOW WASHINGTON HAS STOPPED ALL ITS CYNICAL MANIPULATIONS OF MEN AND MEANS AND WANTS TO ARM SIAD BARRE DIRECTLY." ON FOREIGN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA: THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS WILL BE WELL ADVISED TO MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS. THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL US WITH WHOM WE SHOULD DEAL AND WITH WHOM WE SHOULD NOT. CUBANS, RUSSIANS, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ADDIS 02985 01 OF 01 071302Z

ETC, ARE NOT FOREIGNERS IN ETHIOPIA. THEIR ACTIVITIES, NUMBERS, RESIDENCE AND ETC. IS NO CONCERN OF WASHINGTON. WHEN WASHINGTON CLOSES ALL MILITARY BASES ABROAD, WHEN IT GIVES INDEPENDENCE TO PUERTO RICO, EVACUATES GUANTANAMO, AND RETURNS NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS TO MEXICO, WE WILL BEGIN TO TAKE ITS VIEWS SERIOUSLY, NOT OTHERWISE. FIRST THEY PUSHED SOMALIA TO WAR, THEN THEY SAID THAT THEY PREVAILED ON SIAD BARRE TO PULL OUT HIS TROOPS. THEN THEY SAID THAT THEY WANT TO SUPPLY MOGADISCIO WITH "DEFENSIVE" ARMS. NOW THE STAGE IS SET FOR THE SUPPLY OF WEAPONS DIRECTLY. IF THE YANKEES THINK WE ARE STUPIDS (SIC) AND I KNOW THAT THEY DO NOT CONSIDER US STUPIDS, THEN THEY ARE JUST FOOLING THEMSELVES. LET THEM CONTINUE PLOTTING AGAINST ETHIOPIA. WE WILL RECIPROCATATE ACCORDINGLY. PERHAPS AFTER THAT THEY WILL COME TO THEIR SENSES."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02985 02 OF 02 071306Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 ACDA-12 EUR-12 ARA-10 /111 W

-----044313 071336Z /50

R 071142Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8954

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2985

5. MOST VIRULENT ATTACK WAS IN JULY 2 AMHARIC RADIO
COMENTARY: "IMPERIALISM, HEADED BY PRESIDENT JIMMY
CARTER, IS KNOWN FOR CASTRATING ALL PROGRESSIVE
MOVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES
DENOUNCE SECESSIONISM WHENEVER IT AFFECTS THEIR ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL INTEREST AND SUPPORT IT WHENEVER THEIR
INTERESTS ARE NOT AT STAKE. SUCH AN EXAMPLE WAS THE
CIVIL WAR IN NIGERIA WHERE IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES STOOD
MUTE. JUST AS THE FORMER WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION
CASTRATED CHILE, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS NOW TRYING
TO DO THE SAME THING IN ETHIOPIA AS WAS DONE IN CHILE."

6. WE READ THIS 8-DAY BARRAGE OF PROPAGANDA AS AN EX-
PRESSION OF ETHIOPIAN GOVT DISPLEASURE WITH THE USG FOR
CONSIDERING AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA AND
FOR CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING
SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. IN THEIR OWN WAY,
THE ETHIOPIANS MAY CONSIDER THAY HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF
INFLUENCING THE USG BY ATTACKING US THAN BY REASONING
WITH US. (SEE ADDIS ABABA 2908 EXDIS.) IN DOMESTIC
TERMS, IT WAS ALSO AN EFFORT TO PLACE THE BLAME FOR SAG-
GING ECONOMY ON EXTERNAL FACTORS BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE
CONTROL OF THE PMGSE. EXCEPT FOR THE INTENSITY OF THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 02985 02 OF 02 071306Z

ATTACKS, WE FOUND THEM CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW OF
PMGSE POLICY AND PRACTICE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS
FLURRY PRESAGES ANY WORSENING OF US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS.
IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT ETHIOPIANS OF ALL SHADES
OF OPINION HAVE TOLD US (AND OTHERS, E.G. MENGISTU TO
THE LAST RUMANIAN AMBASSADOR) NOT TO BELIEVE THE ETHIO-
PIAN MEDIA OR TAKE ITS ATTACKS TO HEART.
MATHERON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, ANTIAMERICAN, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS02985
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780279-0224
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807106/baaafcrj.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0674566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1858186
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTI-US MEDIA FLURRY IN ETHIOPIA
TAGS: SOPN, ET, US, PMAC
To: STATE INFO USUN N Y
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0674566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014